

*CIA:01 Bush, George
CRG 1 SALT
(orig under Bush)*

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SUBJECT George Bush: A View on the SALT Treaty

ROBERT MACNEIL: Turning to one area where your career would have very specific relevance, with the SALT treaty coming up, there's been a lot of controversy over whether such a treaty could be verified. As a former Director of the CIA, do you believe it can be adequately verified?

GEORGE BUSH: My view is that our ability to monitor, and thus verify, has been severely diminished.

But look, I would wait and receive the testimony, as the Senate will do behind closed doors, and make a determination.

MACNEIL: Will you campaign...

BUSH: Maybe there's something happening there that I don't know about. I don't have access to the highly classified information for which, indeed, I was responsible before. So I want to see the Senate get all the information.

But when President Carter said at the time of the demise of Iran that our intelligence-collection capability had not been diminished -- he eventually changed it -- that was wrong. And when Turner says it's going to take a certain period of time before we can verify it, I think that needs to be fully discussed.

I am concerned, based on my own knowledge, frankly, very concerned.

MACNEIL: Do you see yourself possibly campaigning against ratification of a SALT treaty?